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with

[(b) deletions, additions and substitutions of (a) which code for a respective lens epithelial cell derived growth factor polypeptide,]

(b[c]) nucleic acid molecules that differ from the nucleic acid molecules of (a) [or (b)] in codon sequence due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, and

(c[d]) complements of (a), [(b)] or (b[c]).

3. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule is the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:13 [or a fragment thereof].

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4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of

(a) a fragment of a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1, of sufficient length to represent a sequence [unique within the human genome, and] identifying a nucleic acid encoding a [Lens Epithelial Cell Derived Growth Factor] polypeptide that induces protein synthesis in an epithelial cell,

(b) complements of (a),

provided that the fragment includes a sequence of contiguous nucleotides which is not identical to any sequence selected from the sequence group consisting of

(1) sequences having the GenBank accession numbers of Table III,

(2) complements of (1), and

(3) fragments of (1) and (2).

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20. (Amended) A kit, comprising a package containing:

a[n] nucleic acid or polypeptide agent that selectively binds to the isolated nucleic acid of claim 1 [or an expression product thereof], and

a control for comparing to a measured value of binding of said nucleic acid or polypeptide agent to said isolated nucleic acid of claim 1 [or expression product thereof].

REMARKS

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as "failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: 11, 15, 17, 19, 21. "

The brief description of Figure 5 is amended to include reference to the numeral signs (e.g., 11, 15, 17, 19, 21) appearing in Figure 5. Support for this amendment can be found at least between page 28,